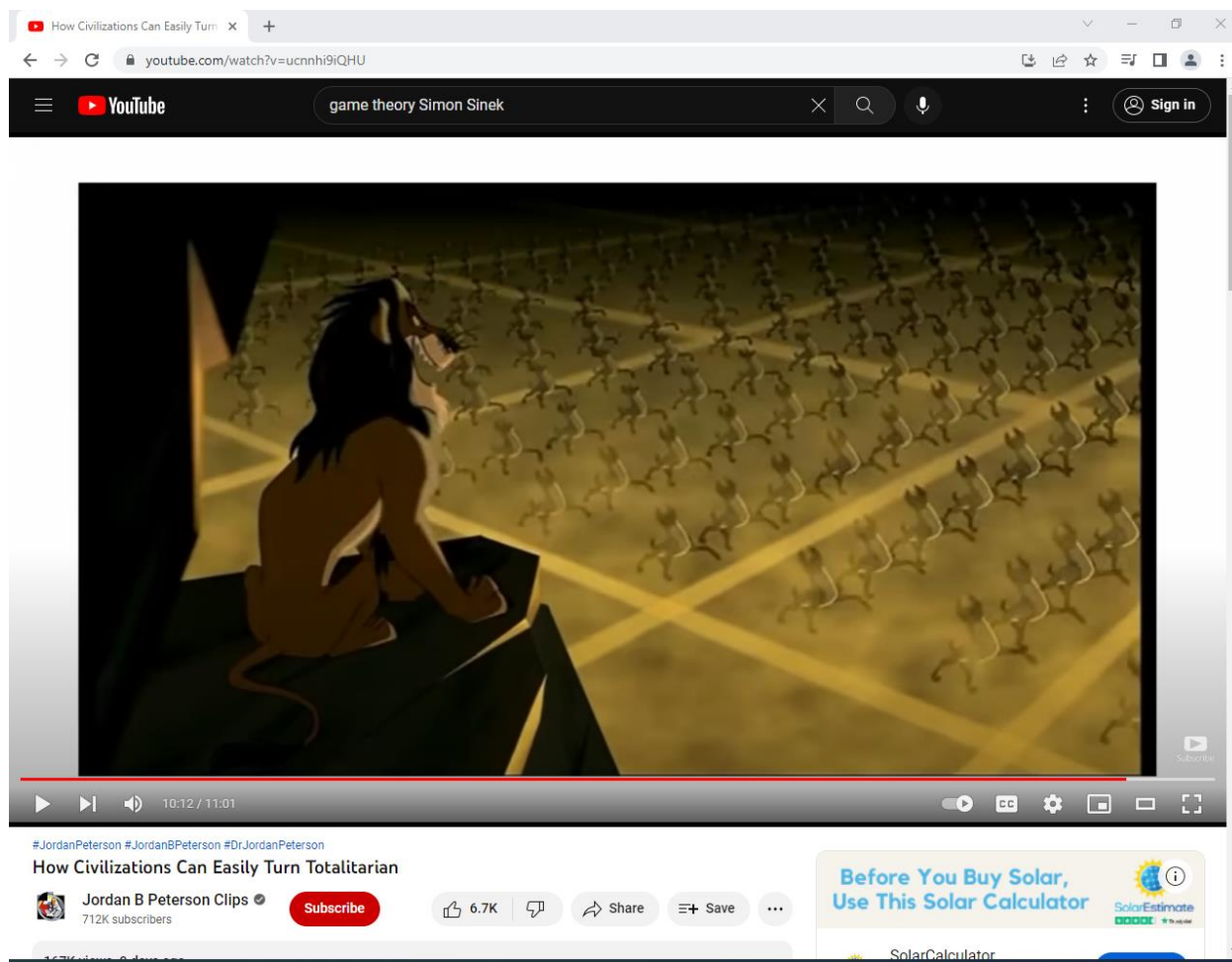


# How Civilizations Can Easily Turn Totalitarian

(2022-10-17)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucnnhi9iQHU>

## Description:

Watch the full video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6pbJTqv2hw> (Feb 7, 2017)

## Transcript: (auto-generated)

0:00

anyways back to the to the hellish

0:02

domain now I told you that that domain

0:04

that's outside of knowledge you could

0:06

think about that as the underworld or

0:07

you can think about it as nature the

0:09

negative element of nature in particular

0:10

and so I mentioned that one element of

0:13

that is hellish and that's exactly what

0:15

the movie explains next it does exactly

0:18

that we go back out to this domain that

0:20

Scar the adversary or the negative king

0:23

that's another way of looking at them

0:25

this is his his the domain over which he

0:27

rules and so

0:31

you can see him there surrounded in fire

0:33

same idea as the you know as the hyenas

0:35

surrounded by fire earlier although this

0:37

is green fire and smoke which I think is

0:39

even worse and uh this is where the

0:42

movie starts to draw on essentially Nazi

0:45

symbolism at least the symbolism of

0:48

totalitarian States and you know you

0:50

think about you think about a

0:51

totalitarian state you think about the

0:53

Nazis and they're Goose stepping and

0:55

what's happening is that every single

0:57

person in the military becomes an

0:59

identical unit right a UNIF they're all

1:01

uniform and they're all in some sense

1:04

imitating the the dictator in in an

1:07

absolutely perfect way and so the

1:09

dictator wants to impose strict

1:11

uniformity on the entire population

1:13

that's order

1:14

order and one of the things we've

1:17

discovered that's really interesting is

1:19

that

1:21

um discussed sensitivity is associated

1:23

with orderliness

1:25

and that's associated with

1:26

conscientiousness and one of the things

1:28

about Hitler was that he was very

1:30

disgust sensitive and a lot of his

1:32

hatred for non-aryans so imagine inside

1:34

the Aryan box it was all uniform outside

1:37

it was all parasites and predators and

1:39

so and **that was a manifestation of**

1:41

**disgust not of fear** it's a whole

1:43

different thing and if you read Hitler's

1:46

table talk which is a collection of his

1:48

spontaneous dinner speeches from 1939 to

1:51

1942. it's a very interesting book you

1:54

see that his metaphor for the Aryan race

1:57

was a body a Pure Body

1:59

unassaulted by parasites or predators

2:02

and that he was trying to erect a border

2:04

around it to keep all of that away so

2:06

it's an immunological disgust-like

2:09

metaphor and there's some recent work

2:11

that was published in pause one about

2:13

three years ago showing that brilliant

2:16

study should have got much more

2:17

attention showing that if you went

2:18

around and and sampled political

2:21

attitudes in different countries or even

2:23

within the same country

2:25

**what you found was that the higher the**

2:27

**prevalence of infectious diseases**

2:30

**the higher the probability of**

2:31

**totalitarian political attitudes at the**

2:33

**local level** and you can imagine well

2:36

what happens if there's infectious

2:37

diseases is you want to put borders

2:39

around everything you don't want free

2:40

movement between ideas or people because

2:42

that's partly how the disease spreads

2:44

you're going to have much more strict

2:47

sexual rules for example because that's

2:50

a great way for diseases to be

2:51

transmitted and before Hitler went on

2:53

his Rampage against the norians he

2:56

cleaned up all the factories like he

2:58

went in there and fumigated them it was

3:00

part of the law he went on a public

3:02

health campaign to get rid of

3:04

tuberculosis and he got rid of the bugs

3:06

in the factories as well he used Cyclone

3:08

B

3:09

that's an insecticide and now it's the

3:11

gas that he used in the gas Chambers

3:12

eventually so first it was the bugs in

3:14

the rats and then it was people who were

3:16

that it was euthanasia that was the next

3:18

move and forced euthanasia and the **the**

3:22

**rationale for that was compassion** by the

3:25

way just so you all know it's it's it's

3:27

merciful to put these people who are

3:30

burdens some to themselves and their

3:32

families and the state who are living

3:34

second-rate lives it's merciful to

3:38

euthanize them and that was a huge

3:39

campaign in Germany it was after that

3:41

that the the more racial

3:44

purifications began and so that's the



3:48

disgusting that's unbelievably important

3:50

it's it's it's because lots of times

3:54

people think that conservatives are more

3:55

anxiety sensitive than liberals and

3:57

that's why they're closed in terms of

3:59

their ideas but that doesn't look right

4:01

first of all conservatives are less

4:02

neurotic than liberals although the

4:04

effect isn't that big so it doesn't look

4:06

and they actually are they're they score

4:08

higher in measures of well-being the

4:10

most unhappy people are liberal Men by

4:12

the way so

4:15

but you know people are often accused if

4:17

they're conservative of being fearful

4:19

and that's why they you know suppress

4:21

other people's viewpoints but that

4:22

doesn't look right it's low openness and

4:24

high orderliness and that looks like

4:26

it's associated with disgust and that

4:28

looks like it's associated with

4:30

something called the extended immune

4:31

system which is the proclivity of people

4:33

to to keep themselves away from

4:35

potential sources of contamination it's

4:38

really terrifying because one of the

4:39

things people often said about Germany

4:41

was that you know it was a very

4:43

civilized country and yet it descended

4:45

into barbarity

4:47

but conscientiousness is a very good

4:49

predictor of long-term success and so

4:52

you could say well conscientious

4:54

societies are more civilized but they're

4:56

also more orderly and that makes them

4:58

more disgust sensitive and so what it

5:00

might have easily might have easily been

5:01

in Germany was that it was in excess of

5:04

civilization rather than its lack that

5:07

produced exactly these consequences and

5:09

that's a far more frightening

5:10

proposition and one that's I believe

5:12

much more likely to be true Hitler

5:14

bathed four times a day

5:16

and he was also an admirer of willpower

5:18

so he could stand like this for eight

5:20

hours in the back of a car and the thing

5:22

about conscientious people is their very

5:24

will power oriented and so if you're

5:26

unfortunate enough to be sick

5:28

chronically in the house of someone

5:30

who's conscientious especially if it's a

5:32

mental illness you're more likely to

5:33

relapse because the conscientious person

5:36

is going to be judgmental and they're

5:37

going to say to you if you're

5:38

schizophrenic they're going to say well

5:40

if you just organize yourself and get up

5:41

in the morning and try a little harder

5:43

you could overcome this which is of

5:45

course true except you can't because

5:48

you're schizophrenic and so the pressure

5:50

put on You by the anger and the contempt

5:52

is going to increase the probability

5:53

that you'll relapse so orderly people

5:57

are very judgmental and you know

5:59

orderliness is a very highly associated

6:01

with things like anorexia and the

6:03

anorexic is basically someone who so

6:05

disgust sensitive that they become

6:07

unable to tolerate their own body and

6:10

they see it as a source of corruption

6:12

and imperfection which of course is

6:14

exactly right it is

6:16

and it's very difficult thing to

6:17

maintain order around

6:19

so

6:21

anyways so what happens out here in this

6:23

terrible domain where scar rules is that

6:26

things turn into a totalitarian state

6:28

you know and he's he's presented here as

6:30

as a nazi-like leader and see there's

6:34

another thing that's really interesting

6:35

that's even deeper than this from a

6:37

mythological perspective I don't know if

6:39

I can even go into it

6:41

well not really I guess what I'll have

6:43

to do is satisfy myself with this

6:45

observation

6:47

there's always been some antagonism for

6:49

example between the Catholic church and

6:51

rationalism and everyone knows that it's

6:54

a very long-standing antagonism that

6:56

sort of runs its way through at least

6:58

the last thousand years or so of Western

7:00

civilization and

7:02

the people who regarded Catholic

7:04

Catholics as antithetical to science

7:06

take the Catholics to task for that and

7:08

describing it as prejudicial and super

7:11

and superstitious and fair enough but

7:14

there's something else going on there

7:15

that's more important and that's the

7:17

observation and this is at a deep level

7:19

again the observation that

7:22

**rationality has one big problem**

7:25

**so it's it can easily become arrogant**

7:27

**and believe in its own theories**

7:29

so if you're smart and they're going to

7:31

be some of you people who are like that

7:32

too some of you your primary the primary

7:35

trait that distinguished you from other

7:37

people over the course of your whole

7:38

life was that you were more intelligent

7:40

than most and you may have staked your

7:42

identity on that and and overvalue



7:45

intelligence and rationality and the

7:47

problem with that is that you you make a

7:49

theory of the world and then you tend to

7:51

assume that it's 100 correct that's **the**

7:54

**tendency to fall in love with your own**

7:55

**theories and that's what a totalitarian**

7:57

**does the totalitarian says here's the**

8:00

**damn Theory and it's exactly right and**

8:02

**you're going to act it out exactly and**

8:04

**if you don't**

8:05

**well we've got some special treats in**

8:08

**mind for you** and one of the most

8:10

terrible things that that I encountered

8:12

while reading about totalitarianism and

8:14

this was even more true of the Soviet

8:16

Union under Stalin was that

8:18

the True Believers and and there were

8:21

many of them

8:23

we're in a terrible position because

8:25

according to their own Doctrine they're

8:27

already involved in the process that was

8:29

going to bring Utopia to mankind the

8:31

problems had already been solved but

8:32

many of them were still suffering

8:34

terribly as individuals but if you're a

8:36

totalitarian believer in Utopia your own

8:39

suffering becomes heretical right

8:41

because your suffering is an indication

8:43

that the damn Theory isn't correct and

8:46

so then you're in a terrible position

8:47

because you either admit that the theory

8:49

isn't correct and fall apart because of

8:51

that and and maybe face terrible

8:53

punishment as well or you have to

8:56

separate yourself from your own

8:58

suffering and and lie about it

8:59

fundamentally and of course that's

9:01

exactly what happened in places like the

9:02

Soviet Union where everyone lied about

9:04

everything all of the time to themselves

9:07

to their family members to their friends

9:09

the entire system was completely

9:12

permeated by lies and so you get this

9:15

terrible

9:16

place

9:17

**that scars the ruler over which is**

9:20

**totalitarian and brutal and murderous**

9:22

**and resentful and deceitful and arrogant**

9:25

all at the same time and you

9:29

that's

9:30

brought about so the Columbine guys for

9:34

example when they're justifying their

9:36

murderousness

9:38

and their plans to shoot up the schools

9:41

they keep making reference to the fact

9:43

that people had slighted them for

9:45

example

9:46

you know and insulted them and that they

9:48

were alienated they weren't bullied

9:50

exactly the way the Press made it out I

9:52

don't know if they were bullied any more

9:53

than people usually are in high school

9:54

but they took their alienation

9:57

personally and regarded that their

10:01

isolation from common Humanity as

10:03

indication of the pathology of

10:05

everything and then they went out to

10:07

destroy and that's exactly what this

10:09

sort of thing represents that's the

10:11

uniformity and you see he's got this

10:13

kind of vicious grin on his face which

10:16

is malicious and and pleased all at the

10:18

same time there's no fear in that it's

10:20

it's quite quite the opposite

10:23

and there's another image of you know

10:25

using what's essentially imagery of Hell

10:27

which everyone understands strangely

10:29

enough and that Associates him with the

10:32

crescent moon and the Crescent Moon is

10:34

well it's a symbol of darkness and and

10:36

the underworld fundamentally so

10:39

all right so anyway so that's we see the

10:42

underworld we see that which lies beyond

10:45

the light and in there we see a fragment

10:46

of that that's basically hellish and all

10:48

of that's incorporated into the story

10:50

and everyone understands that when they

10:52

see it

10:53

um even without I would say the overt

10:55

references to Nazism

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## **Description:**

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